WHIRRAKEE

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
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Website: www.bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au
E-mail address: info@bendigofieldnaturalists.asn.au

Office Bearers for 2013 - 2014

President	Richard Goonan	e-mail: richard.goonan@optusnet.com.au
Vice President	Bill Holsworth	5443 4063
Secretary/Public Officer	Matt Comer	0409 162 627
Minute Secretary (gen meet'gs)	Kerrie Norris *(still require a back up)*	5447 8017
Treasurer	Ben Goonan	
Excursion organiser	John Lindner	5448 3406
Syllabus organiser	Ben Goonan	
Librarian	Diana Collier & Maryann Hill	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Jan Orr	
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis (assisted by Rob Moors)	0407 427179
Whirrakee contact/editor	Sabine Wilkens e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797
Co-editor	Richard Goonan	
Whirrakee mailing coordinator	Gemma Candy	0423 634 416
Website coordinator/Webmaster	Ben Goonan	

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $40; Family $50; Concession: Single $35; Family $40. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $40.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with members sharing their recent natural history observations. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Anne Bridley, Kerrie Norris, John Lindner, Jenny Shield, Diana Collier, Devi Shanty

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

Bird Observing: Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley 5442 6188 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5442 6188. To propose bird observing excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 35, No. 8, September 2014
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*), which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions should be posted or e-mailed to the editor at least two days prior to the last Wednesday of the month. They will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although space restrictions occasionally require shortening of articles or holding them over till the following edition of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
September in Bendigo is fantastic and I hope you are using every opportunity to get out. Spring is so short but so sweet, so don't miss it. September is also the month for the BFNC's annual general meeting and I hope that you have considered nominating for the committee or one of the many positions that support the club's existence. If not, nominations are usually accepted on the night, so make sure you attend the meeting on Wednesday evening. We have positions for creative minds, for leaders and for followers, for good organisers and people who are simply enthusiastic about natural history and/or passionate about conserving our bushland. We always need new ideas, new approaches and new energy, so please consider taking a more active role in the running of our club.

Front page photographer: Glenise Moors
What did Declan Woods find roosting under the tin on top of the exhaust of the old tractor at the Moors' place? (Declan's mum, Catriona caught an image of the find). If you can't tell from this photo, see page 4.

September Club Excursion
When: Sunday 14 September
Theme: Spring wildflowers, orchids, rocky ridges and birds.
See page 10 for details about this and other excursions for the remainder of the year.

Speaker topic of July general meeting –
'The Role of the Gold Mining Industry in Forest Conservation in Victoria before 1918'
Speaker: Stephen Legg, Historical Geographer, Research Fellow, Monash University
by Jenny Shield

Stephen introduced us to the fascinating history of the lobbying by gold mining interests, supported by their workers and communities for the government to retain the forests and protect them from agriculture while at the same time being one of the great destroyers of forests. They were dependent on wood for lining the mines and for the steam engines that powered the mining industry. Their argument for setting aside forest land was an economic one – if wood became too expensive, it would affect the viability of mining industry and a lot of people would become unemployed.

When the local supply of timber was used up, the timber came from Gippsland, overseas and Tasmania. The demands of the industry resulted in deforestation not only here, but in other countries, for example, Oregon pine from the USA was the preferred timber for lining mining tunnels and for housing timber.

In Victoria, railways, also made of wood, were used to access and transport timber to the mines. The Otways was important especially for Ballarat. Initially, Ballarat was the biggest user of timber because they needed more for lining the mining tunnels and shafts. Later, when most of the mining was deep underground, Bendigo was using more, because the mining here was extremely deep, and more timber was needed to power the dewatering of the mines.
There was a tussle between the mining interests and the agricultural interests in the 1890s and 1900s as the supply of land for settlement was running out. To make new land available, either the big estates had to be broken up or the forests had to be settled.

So the main purpose of conserving forests was for the supply of wood and water, until 1911 when the Australian Forest League was formed. This organisation was run by people interested in natural history.

There were a number of enquiries into the forests in the late 19th century, for example, the reserves were expanded after an enquiry in the 1890s, then disbanded in 1904-1907. So the current reserve system was not put into place till later.

Stephen is putting the results of his research together into a book. We look forward to its publication.
'Connecting Country' were supporting this event.

Speaker topic of August general meeting –
'Photographing and identifying Dragonflies'
Speaker: Reiner Richter, The Entomological Society of Victoria
by Sabine Wilkens

It is unusual to see dragon flies in August, but Reiner started his presentation with some he had seen and photographed in our district around the time of his talk. Now that weather is warming up, we can expect more of these beautiful and interesting insects, but you have to be quick to photograph them – dragonflies have massive eyes so they see the photographer from all angles! (in dragonflies, both eyes are touching, which differs from damselflies, in which the eyes are separated).

Reiner's presentation contained wonderful imagery of dragonflies, which he used to point out important features for identification, for telling male from female and for illustrating their behaviour.

...continued on page 9

Wildlife at Mandurang South Road, Sedgwick
(Photos by Glenise Moors)

Left: A small moth in the hills at the Sedgwick end of Big Hill Range, August 2014. Any ideas as to its name?

Middle: Taken in mid-August amongst the rocks in the Big Hill Range – Sedgwick end. Glenise thought the one following had something other than eating on his mind but she did not know the sex of these echidnas. Neither were really feeding. It may have been ticks or some other reason why one stopped regularly to scratch.

Below right: What Declan Woods found (see front page) … a Lesser Long-eared Bat roosting under the tin on top of the exhaust of the old tractor at the Moors' place.

Below left: Scented Sundew (photo by Catriona Woods)

Wildlife on Campus
New Holland Honey-eaters at La Trobe University August 16
Photographer:
Michael Angove

Right: an adult feeding on a garden *Grevillea*.

It was great to see that our local *Grevillea alpina* was also flowering well in the university bushland (bottom right photo).
This species has suffered greatly over the last ten years and it was good see even one or two healthy plants.
(photo by S.Wilkens)

Below:...a juvenile, no, a ball of fluff on a very cold winters day.

Some late Winter fungi
(Photographer: Joy Clusker)

Joy writes:
This fungus was found by a friend of mine, Di Davies, in a bushland reserve in Strathfieldsaye. The reserve was burnt last year, thus it fits in with Richards request for examples of positive outcomes of burning.
It is *Hebeloma aminophilum*, Ghost fungus and it grows on animal carcasses, often burnt ones. It has been on my wish list for a while – I have seen it before at Bullarto, but this was a first locally, and it is a Fungi map target species and is uncommon. It is saprophagous, obtaining its nutrients from decaying animal matter. The photo on the right (below) shows its underside

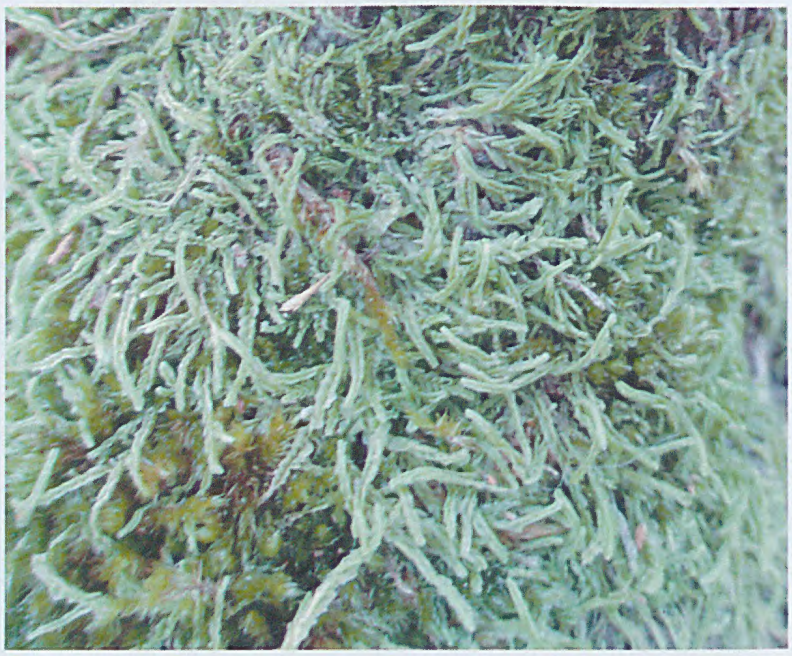
Above left: *Crucibulum laeve*, Birds nest fungi on Marsupial dung at Stathfieldsaye

Below: some attractive, wood-decaying (unknown) fungi from the Grampians (photos: S.Wilkens)

August Club excursion
Left: Tranquil views during the bird count at Epson,
Below: The old bird hide (photos by Joy Clusker)

Some mosses from the Grampians (in August)

(photographed but not identified by Sabine Wilkens)



July Geology excursion – Harcourt batholith and metamorphic contact zone (P.S.)

The August Whirrakee, which contained the geology excursion report, had a follow-up test devised by John Lindner to see if members payed attention during the explanations on the day. Below is the re-print of the test questions and the answers. How did you go?

1. What is the difference between granite and granodiorite in their mineral composition?
2. In what 4 ways does the Baringhup Granodiorite differ from the Harcourt Granodiorite?
3. There were dendrites of manganese oxide deposited between the joint planes of the metamorphic aureole at Fogarty's Gap. How did they get this name?
4. Why are metamorphosed Ordovician hillsides smoother in outline than granite hillsides?
5. What makes xenoliths ("foreign rocks") in granite darker in colour than what surrounds them?
6. In granite masses, how many jointing planes are there, and what orientations are they?
7. Why do geologists refer to "granite" when they should be more precise and say "granodiorite"?
   - A There's no difference anyway
   - B They are after all, just ordinary people like us, so like to keep it simple
   - C They don't like to be too exhibitionistic when it comes to technical terms
8. What is aplite?
   - A An app about rocks which tries very hard to reduce all the hideous technical jargon of geology to bland pap
   - B A pale coloured dyke rock consisting of fine grained quartz and feldspar
   - C A horrible blot on a fine piece of monumental stone
9. Why are the Dog Rocks at Mount Alexander named so?
   - A Someone was having a dog of a day
   - B There were once wild dogs who lurked in the caves
   - C There's a rock on the biggest tor which looks like a dog, only it's really a seal
10. What is the name of the closest volcano southwards of Mount Tarrengower?

Answers:

1. Granite has more orthoclase (potassium rich) feldspar than plagioclase (soda rich) feldspar.
Granodiorite has more plagioclase than orthoclase. Adamellite is midway between these two and has about 50% of each type.
2. Baringhup granodiorite has smaller grains, closer joint spacing, smaller tors and smaller xenoliths.
3. A dendrite is a fern like aggregate of black manganese oxide that has branching resembling a tree.
4. The jointing system in granite gives the hill profile a stepped shape, due to the underlying or emergent tors. A hill of metamorphic rock is composed of many finer fragments so therefore is smoother in outline.
5. The darker minerals with iron and manganese in them are concentrated in xenoliths.
6. Jointing planes in granite – 2 horizontal and one vertical.
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. Mount Franklin

Invitation to the Annual Terrick Terrick National park Weekend

On the first weekend of October each year, the Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park Inc. have an Activities Weekend in the national park.

The starting point for all activities is the Davies Homestead site, Mitiamo-Kow Swamp Road Terrick Terrick. The machinery shed used for displays and presentations is supplied with electricity and running water.

This year, activities include working bees, presentations (e.g. on local geology, history of the area, local flora and fauna), displays (e.g. of local area native plants), sheep-shearing, mini-coach tours to various parts of the park, nature walks, wildflower walks and bird-watching.

This is a free event. It's a BYO everything event (BYO drinking water, food, plates, camping equipment, etc) although we will supply afternoon tea on the Saturday afternoon.
You are welcome to attend.

The Activities Weekend in Terrick Terrick National Park is part of Loddon Shire's *Naturally Loddon Festival Calendar*.

For more information, email stocky@mcmedia.com.au or leave a phone message on 5480 9254
Keith Stockwell, Secretary,

All other activities and events that are part of *Naturally Loddon* can be found here: http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Visit/Natural-attractions/Naturally-Loddon

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PNG forests reveal possible new animal species

From: The Science Show, Saturday 9 August 2014 12:38PM

An expedition in 2013 to locate critically endangered mammals in Papua New Guinea has revealed animals which may be new to science. The forests are in a remote area of the north west Papua New Guinea, near the border with West Papua. The aim was to find two critically endangered tree kangaroos, the Weimang and Tenkile tree kangaroo. Euan Ritchie found a wallaby and a small Antechinus -sized animal which could be new to science. Now these animals need to be caught so they can be fully described. And there is further excitement as local villagers have described dog-sized animals with vertical stripes which could be a thylacine, thought to be extinct.

*Editor's comment: **Euan Ritchie is a** Senior Lecturer in Ecology at Deakin University Burwood.*
For more information check out the story here:
http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/png-forests-reveal-possible-new-animal-species/5659032

Spring Bird Photography workshops with Chris Tzaros and Geoff Park

Chris Tzaros and Geoff Park are hosting two bird photography workshops this Spring, in Newstead. Both workshops will be held on **Saturday 11th October**, the first for early birds (7.30am - 12.30pm), with the afternoon session commencing at 1.30pm and concluding at 6.30pm.
Each workshop is limited to 10 participants at a cost of $100. You can email me, geoff.park@naturaldecisions.com.au to book a place in one of these highly regarded workshops – please indicate your preferred time slot.
Each session will include a 90 minute illustrated talk, 'Bird Photography: Tips & Techniques', together with a field session in the local bush. The workshops cater for a range of participants, from budding photographers to those with more experience wishing to improve their techniques and field craft. As they say...book early to avoid disappointment!

...continued from page 3 (Reiner Richter's talk on dragonflies)

During the talk, Reiner frequently referred to his website, which is: rnr.id.au
If you land on his home page ('rnr' stands for rest and relax!), click on the butterfly image (wildlife photography), and then on 'dragonflies' within the gallery options. There is some general information about dragonfly biology (including links to many species of dragonflies and damselflies), hints on photography and an on-line key for identifying dragonflies. It also tells us about the difference between dragonflies and damselflies, lists a number of Reiner's reports about special observations and discoveries and has external links to relevant literature.

Besides dragonflies, Reiner also photographs other things, so while you are at the website, you may want to look around at images of plants, fungi and scenery. We were very lucky that Reiner braved the cold weather and the long drive from Melbourne, to share his passion with us on the night. Thank you.

BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB – EXCURSIONS - SECOND HALF OF 2014
(Please note that most excursions are in the week following the monthly meeting)

Sunday 14 September

Theme	spring wildflowers, orchids, rocky ridges and birds
Locations	southern part of the Sedgwick State Forest
Duration	Half day
Leader(s)	Anne Bridley and Glenise Moors
Meeting Place/Time:	former Senior Citizens Centre, Old High St, Golden Square, 9 am.
Return:	back by 2 pm.

Please bring: morning tea, lunch, wildflower books, binoculars, cameras, sunscreen, hat, wet weather gear if necessary

Details: we will first travel to Sedgwick to look at a big tree, then on to the Sedgwick forest where we will have a leisurely stroll up and down to a pleasant gully for lunch.

Total walking distance: 2 km on a formed track. For those inclined, there will be short scrambles up to the ridges adjacent to the road.
For those not inclined, there will be plenty to see next to the road.

Hazards: loose rocks and branches on the hill slopes.
Car pooling: we will take the minimum number of cars as the roads are narrow and there is limited parking at the lunch spot.

Sunday 12 October

Theme	**Botany (Spring wildflowers) and birds**		
Location	One of the excursions listed under September in the August *Whirrakee*		
Duration	Whole day	Leader(s)	To be appointed

Weekend 1/2 November with Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 (Melbourne Cup Day)

Theme	**Campout**		
Location	Warby-Ovens National Park, Killawarra Forest (northern) section Camping at The Forest Camp (toilets, shelter, fireplaces, camping spots) Could also visit Warby Range (southern) section and Honeyeater Dam, Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park		
Duration	See dates above	Leader(s)	To be appointed

Diary

All Club meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High St Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

Wednesday September 10 7.30pm
Annual General Meeting.
Our speaker, Professor Barbara Downes from the University of Melbourne will be talking about 'Understanding the role dispersal plays in restoring species diversity to streams damaged by agriculture'

Excursions for September
spring wildflowers, rocky ridges and birds
Sunday September 14 (see pg 10 for details)

Family Nature Club
The Nature Club activities will continue in 2014, please listen out for announcements or check out their website.
Registration:
Bendigonatureclub@gmail.com or 5443-1326
http://bendigofamilynatureclub.blogspot.com/

Bendigo Native Plant Group meeting.
All interested people are welcome to come along. Meeting starts at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of the month, Golden Square Senior Citizens Hall.
Next meeting: 16th of September
Advance notice: 10th Biennial FJC Rogers Seminar – *Brachychiton* and Allied Genera
Saturday and Sunday 18th and 19th October

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.
WRIN meetings held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 1pm the Golden Square Senior Citizens Hall

SEANA spring camp 2014 Portland Field Naturalists Club

Portland Field Naturalists Club members are pleased to invite fellow naturalists to the SEANA Spring campout to be held in Portland on the **26th-29th September 2014**.
Program Highlights include;
Botany, Magnificent coastal scenery, Aboriginal heritage, Birdwatching, Glenelg River cruise, Seals tour, Harbour Cruise, Rock-pooling, Enchanted forest walk, Cape Nelson- Point Danger seabird watching and nature walk.
They have a particular emphasis on catering for children, with the camp occurring in the school Holidays, and have scheduled Junior activities and reduced child rates.
Full Payment must be received by August 31st 2014
Camp coordinator: Ruth Graney Ph: 55295335, Email: irgraney@bigpond.com
Matt Comer has the full information for any last minute interested parties.

Kooyoora Wildflower Show
From Saturday 20 September, 9:00am
To Sunday 21 September, 5:00pm
Cost: Adult: $5.00 per day, Family $10.00 2 adults 2 children-cost includes general admission, admission to all lectures and tours. Tour bus will also be used to transport people from Bendigo to Inglewood and back each day - times and pick-up points to be advised. For further information: (03) 5437 3255 or 0427 190 339

Angair Wildflower Show will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday 20 and 21 September from 10.00am to 4.30pm at the Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street,
One of the activities is 'Swap an environmenttal weed for a local plant'
Adults $5, Children Free, Students and Pensioners $2

Naturally Loddon Events and Activities can be found here:
http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Visit/Natural-attractions/Naturally-Loddon